

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

1792A  
EA-99-02  
EA-94-01

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and DECISION RECORD**  
for  
**CLAY CREEK FOOTBRIDGE**  
**Environmental Assessment No. OR090-99-02**

**FONSI:**

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment (EA), and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the Proposed Action will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994) and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995), with which this EA is in conformance, and does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a supplement to the existing EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared.

**DECISION:**

Based on the analysis documented in the EA OR090-99-02 and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), it is my decision to select the Proposed Action. Implementation of this action will result in an easier and more environmentally sound crossing of Clay Creek to access the Clay Creek Trail. It will enhance fish habitat by keeping foot traffic out of the Creek. Work will be done during low flow (summer and late fall).

**DECISION RATIONALE:**

The Proposed Action was selected because it establishes better access to the Clay Creek Trail without disturbing fish habitat in Clay Creek, a tributary to the Siuslaw River, as discussed in EA99-02. The Proposed Action is tiered to and is in compliance with the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994) and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995).

The Proposed Action meets the following Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives:

- Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.
- Maintain and restore sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved.
- Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems.

**Consultation and Coordination:**

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, formal consultation was completed with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on February 17, 1999. The Biological Opinion received from the USFWS concurred that this Action "may affect and is likely to adversely affect" the marbled murrelet and bald eagle due to potential disturbance to these birds during the proposed work timeframe. This Action would also be considered a "may affect but is not likely to adversely affect" the spotted owl for the same reasons.

The Proposed Action is included under actions in a Programmatic Biological Assessment (BA) for the threatened coastal coho salmon that was submitted to the Nation Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in September 1998. The Proposed Action is allowed to go forward under a 7(d) determination issued by NMFS until the final Biological Opinion (BO) is issued.

On April 28, 1999, an EA and Preliminary FONSI were sent to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. No responses were received.

**Mitigation:** As a result of consultation and coordination the following mitigation measures will be done.

- Project time line between July 1 and September 15 (low stream flow periods).
- Construction hours limited between 2 hours after sunrise till 2 hours before sunset (wildlife concerns)
- Cleaning of heavy equipment entering the area to minimize the spread of noxious weeds.
- If necessary reseed the area with native species, and with annual and perennial rye mixture for erosion control.

#### **Public Comments**

Both EA99-02 and the Preliminary FONSI were advertised on April 28, 1999, as available for a 14-day public review period in the Eugene Register-Guard. Copies of the EA and Preliminary FONSI were mailed to interested individuals on BLM's EA and planning mailing list. No comments were received.

Signed by Diane Chung, Field Manager, Coast Range Resource Area on May 13, 1999